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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/524,617

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Christoph Glingener

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BELL, BOYD & LLOYD, LLP
P.O. BOX 1135
CHICAGO, IL 60690

EXAMINER

BELLO, AGUSTIN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2613

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/05/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/524,617	Applicant(s) GLINGENER, CHRISTOPH	
	Examiner Agustin Bello	Art Unit 2613	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 December 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 11-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yee (U.S. Patent No. 7,146,103) in view of Hui (U.S. Patent No. 6,999,688).

Regarding claim 11, Yee teaches a method for transmitting a first and a second data signal in polarization multiplex in an optical transmission system, the method comprising: modulating at the transmitting end the first data signal onto a sideband of a first carrier signal (reference numeral 1660A in Figure 16) to generate a first sideband modulated signal; modulating at the transmitting end the second data signal onto a sideband of a second carrier signal (reference numeral 1660B in Figure 16) to generate a second sideband modulated signal; orthogonally polarizing the first and the second sideband modulated signals to each other (as noted in Figure 16); combining the first and the second sideband modulated signals into a optical multiplex signal (reference numeral 1614 in Figure 16); transmitting the optical multiplex signal; feeding at the receiving end the optical multiplex signal via a polarization control element (reference numeral 139 in Figure 1) to a polarization splitter (reference numeral 1633 in Figure 16) which separates out the optical multiplexed signal which was transmitted into the first and second modulated signals; converting the first sideband modulated signal to a first electrical signal (reference numeral 1630A in Figure 16) and/or converting the second sideband modulated

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signal to a second electrical signal; analyzing the first and/or the second electrical signal (reference numeral 180, 190 in Figure 1). Yee differs from the claimed invention in that Yee fails to specifically teach that dependent on the analyzing result, deriving at least one control signal for the purpose of controlling the polarization control element. However, Hui teaches that this concept is well known in the art (reference numeral 428 in Figure 4). One skilled in the art would have been motivated to analyze the result and derive at least one control signal for the purpose of controlling the polarization control element in order to indicate the two principal states of polarization (column 6 lines 1-5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to analyze the result and derive at least one control signal for the purpose of controlling the polarization control element.

Regarding claim 12, Yee teaches the method according to Claim 11, wherein the sideband modulation is effected using carrier signals which have the same frequency (as noted in Figure 1).

Regarding claim 13, Yee teaches the method according to Claim 11, wherein the sideband modulation is effected using carrier signals which differ by a differential frequency (Δf) such that the spectra of the first and the second sideband modulated signals overlap, by which means the transmission bandwidth is reduced (as noted by Δf in Figure 1).

Regarding claim 14, Yee teaches the method according to Claim 13, wherein the differential frequency (Δf) is greater than one Gigahertz (column 24 lines 30-57).

Regarding claims 15, 16, Yee teaches the method according to Claim 12, wherein the sideband modulation is a single sideband modulation (as noted in the title and abstract) or a vestigial sideband modulation.

Regarding claim 17, Yee teaches the method according to Claim 13, wherein for a second carrier signal which differs from the first carrier signal by a differential frequency (Δf) the spectral component of the first and/or the second electrical signal is determined at the differential frequency (Δf) for the purpose of analyzing the first and/or the second electrical signal (inherent in the recovery of the signal).

Regarding claim 18, Yee teaches the method according to Claim 17, wherein the amplitude of the first and/or the second electrical signal is controlled to a minimum at the differential frequency (Δf) (inherent in the single sideband discussed throughout).

Regarding claims 19-23, the combination of references and Hui in particular teaches the method according to Claim 11, wherein the first or second sideband modulated signal is delayed at the transmitting end for the purpose of decorrelation.(reference numeral 112 in Figure 1).

Regarding claims 24-27, Yee teaches the method according to Claim 11, wherein for the purpose of distinguishing the first and second electrical signals, at least one pilot tone signal (reference numeral f_p in Figure 10) is superimposed at the transmitting end on the first and/or the second carrier signal or the sideband modulated signal.

Regarding claim 28 and 29, the combination of references differs from the claimed invention in that it fails to specifically teach that the purpose of distinguishing the first and second electrical signals the first and second data signals are transmitted at different bit transmission rates or data formats. However, the use of different bit rates or data formats is well known in the art and Official Notice is given to that effect. One skilled in the art would have been motivated to employ different data rates or different data formats in order to allow the identification of different data groups.

Regarding claim 30, Yee teaches that the optical transmission system is operating in wavelength multiplex mode (reference numeral 2700 in Figure 27).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 12/21/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Yee fails to disclose that polarization controller receives a multiplex signal. However, the examiner disagrees. Yee specifically notes that:

“In FIG. 1, the polarization controller 139 is shown located between the local oscillator 132 and combiner 136 and controls the polarization of the local oscillator signal 134. Alternately, the polarization controller 139 may be located between the fiber 120 and combiner 136 and control the polarization of the optical signal 142.”

As to applicant's argument that Yee fails to specifically teach an optical splitter, the examiner notes element 1632-1635 which are specifically described as optical splitters.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Agustin Bello whose telephone number is (571) 272-3026. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan can be reached on (571)272-3022. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Agustin Bello/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2613